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10/694,213	10/28/2003	Kazumori Horikiri	117616	3001
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HOANG, HIEU T				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,213

Applicant(s)

HORIKIRI ET AL.

Examiner

HIEU T. HOANG

Art Unit

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 27-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25, 27-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the communication filed on 05/29/2009.
2. Claims 27-43 are new.
3. Claims 1-25, 27-43 are pending.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-21, 23, 25, 27-29, 31-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal et al. (US 2003/0014488, hereafter Dalal), in view of Katz et al. (US 2003/0158745, hereafter Katz) and further in view of what was known in the art (Official notice or ON)

7. For claim 1, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the teleconference system comprising:

site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site systems being configured to operate a respective conference system (fig. 1, clients with client conference controllers); and

a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other (fig. 1, conference service provider) so as to allow users of the site systems to share a workspace (fig. 20, shared workspace among user systems, fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are performed to enable users to perform cooperative work),

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

the workspace being a project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, the project directories being stored in the shared workspace server, wherein

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems.

However, Katz discloses the workspace being a project directory ([0043], fig. 20, workspace from an innovation folder, fig. 6), from a plurality of project directories storing project files (fig. 6), wherein

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems (fig. 20, users Peter and Katherine sharing the same workspace by accessing Thermal regulating coating Project directory)

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Katz to share workspace or project directories in the conference system of Dalal to allow users of Dalal share project files in addition to conferencing.

Dalal-Katz does not disclose the project directories being stored in the shared workspace server.

However, Official notice is taken that it was known in the art how to store project directories on a server such as a conference service provider. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Katz and what was known in the art to make use of a centralized server for ease of management and maintenance.

8. For claim 2, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to manage a session for managing connection of the site systems (Dalal, [0019]-[0021]), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference (Dalal, [0036], lines 11-20), reference information to a resource relevant to

the conference (Dalal, [0049], claim 6), and history information of file access made by conference participants (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-12).

9. For claim 3, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to provide a user interface for connecting a session and making reference to a file or a resource (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

10. For claim 4, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to instruct, when a client starts a session, all other clients already having started the session to connect to the client (Dalal, [0043], [0058]).

11. For claim 5, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the site system comprises: an electronic whiteboard configured to provide a graphical user interface provided by a shared workspace (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser providing a shared workspace, [0097]); a video and audio server configured to code and decode video and audio and to transmit and receive video and audio to and from any other site system for sharing motion and behavior of participants at the sites (Dalal, [0024], [0031], [0080]); an authentication unit configured to authenticate identification of the participants (Dalal, [0047], [0036]); and a site server configured to manage a session in the site systems (Dalal, fig. 1, client session controller), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference, reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information of file access made by the participants (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-20).

12. For claim 6, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on user identification information transmitted from the site system (Dalal, [0030]).

13. For claim 8, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted from the site system (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-9).

14. For claim 10, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to respond to a file reference request received from the site system, to start application software to reference the file specified in the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application software for each site system with a session established (Dalal, [0036], [0096]).

15. For claim 11, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to, in a case where the file specified in the file reference request is not previously registered in the workspace, temporarily register the file specified in the file reference request (Dalal, [0057] lines 1-6, [0058] lines 1-6).

16. For claim 12, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the site system is configured to start application software to reference the file specified in a file reference request, and

to provide an input/output interface with the application software for any other site system with a session established (Dalal, [0036], [0096]).

17. For claim 13, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the site system is further configured to receive the file specified in a file reference request from any other site system, to start application software to reference the file specified in the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application software for any other site system with a session established (Dalal, [0046] lines 10-18, [0036], [0096]).

18. For claim 14, Dalal discloses a teleconference support method for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the method comprising:

- providing at least one workspace to be shared by one or more conference systems ([0025], [0021]);
- opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to workspace selection of a user ([0051], joining a conference, [0055]);
- adding at least one opened workspace to an active workspace ([0054]-[0055], [0061] lines 14-18);
- managing use of the at least one opened workspace ([0026] lines 1-11);

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

the workspace being a project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a

project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems.

However, Katz discloses the workspace being a project directory ([0043], fig. 20, workspace from an innovation folder, fig. 6), from a plurality of project directories storing project files (fig. 6), upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems (fig. 20, users Peter and Katherine sharing the same workspace by accessing Thermal regulating coating Project directory)

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Katz to share workspace or project directories in the conference system of Dalal to allow users of Dalal share project files in addition to conferencing.

Dalal-Katz does not disclose the project directories being stored in the shared workspace server.

However, Official notice is taken that it was known in the art how to store project directories on a server such as a conference service provider. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of

Dalal and Katz and what was known in the art to make use of a centralized server for ease of management and maintenance.

19. For claim 16, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes providing a user interface for making reference to a file or a resource (Dalal, fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

20. For claim 17, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes registering reference to a file or a resource (Dalal, [0036] lines 5-20).

21. For claim 18, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes switching a workspace, starting a subworkspace, and terminating the workspace (Dalal, [0067]-[0069], switching a workspace is just terminating the workspace and start a new workspace or subworkspace).

22. For claim 19, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses in the managing use of the workspace, the original workspace is deactivated in the switching of the workspace or in the starting of the subworkspace (Dalal, [0069], the real-time session is closed with the SPMS before a user can start a new workspace (or switch to a new workspace)).

23. For claim 20, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 4.

24. For claim 21, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 6.

25. For claim 23, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.

26. For claim 15, Dalal-Katz-ON does not explicitly selecting a workspace from a plurality of workspace candidates from a user interface.

However, Dalal-Katz-ON discloses the display of an invitation message so that the user can choose to join the conference, i.e. workspace, conference rooms (Dalal, [0051], conference information is displayed for the user to select, reading a workspace candidate as an invitation message displayed on the user interface).

Therefore, according to MPEP 2144.02, section VI(b), Duplication of Parts, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dalal-Katz-ON in order to provide a plurality of invitation messages and then display a plurality of invitation messages to the user so that the user can select a conference or a workspace associated with an invitation message that he/she wants to join to provide more functionality to the system and more flexibility to the user (e.g., he/she can decide which conference is more necessary to attend now and which can be hold off).

27. For claim 25, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as in claim 14.

28. For claim 27, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses upon detecting that, after an initial user has logged into the site system, a subsequent user has logged into the site system (Dalal, [0038]), the site system displays project directories that are associated with both the initial and subsequent user (Katz, fig. 22, shared workspace of users).

29. For claim 28, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server comprises a workspace manager that is configured to determine which users have access to access history information in accordance with an access control list (Dalal, [0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-10, retrieving a conference database record file requires checking for user ID associated with that conference)

30. For claim 29, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses each site system is configured to display, upon detecting that a user has logged into the site system (Dalal, [0038]), all of the project directories, which are stored in the shared workspace server (ON), that the user is authorized to participate in (Katz, fig. 6).

31. For claim 31, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses each site system is configured to display a graph structure formed by a plurality of shared project directories (Katz, fig. 6, graph of directories), and to input a selection by the user of one of the shared project directories shown in the graph structure (Official notice is taken that displaying a graph such as a directory tree for directory selection is known in the art at the time of the invention).

32. For claim 32, Dalal further discloses each site system comprises a metadata manager and a presentation controller, and each metadata manager is configured to use terminal information transmitted from the presentation controller and to record a terminal ID, a user ID and a use start time in association with each other (Katz, [0038], fig. 17, Dalal, [0006], [0038]).

33. For claim 33, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the shared workspace server is configured to perform, upon detecting that both a first and second user have logged in to a same site server (Dalal, [0038]), a set operation on a first set of project directories associated with the first user and a second set of project directories associated with the second user (Katz, fig. 6, directories of each user).

34. For claim 34, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the set operation is a product (Katz, fig. 6, innovations).

35. For claim 36, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses comprising a storage that stores files which have been shared and edited, to allow a user to access the files after the sharing and the editing are completed (Katz, fig. 20, shared files for accessing and editing).

36. For claim 37, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses comprising an authenticator to control user access to the project files in the shared workspace based on an access control list (Dalal, [0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-10, retrieving a conference database record file requires checking for user ID associated with that conference).

37. For claim 38, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the teleconference system assigns priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information: (i) network information of a server; (ii) position information of the server; (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server; (iv) a user's schedule information and current time; (v) company user name information; and (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past (Katz, fig. 22, workspace of same company members).

38. Claims 39-40 are rejected for the same rationale given in claims 37-38 respectively.

39. Claims 41-42 are rejected for the same rationale given in claims 37-38 respectively.

40. Claims 7, 9, 22, 24 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal-Katz-ON, in view of Kisliakov (US 2005/0178833).

41. For claims 7 and 9, Dalal-Katz-ON discloses the shared workspace server is configured to select the workspace based on the user identification information or workspace identification information transmitted by the site system. Dalal-Katz-ON does not explicitly disclose that the identification information is transmitted using an IC card.

However, Kisliakov discloses using an IC card to store session and user identification information (see, e.g., [0227]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal-Katz-ON and Kisliakov in order to store ID information in a smart card therefore provide ease of ID information storage and retrieval with increased security protection (Kisliakov, [0002]).

42. For claims 22 and 24, the claims are rejected for the same rationale as in claim 7.

43. For claim 35, Dalal-Katz-ON further discloses the site system is configured to create a list of all users who have logged in and to provide a button for distributing a same document to each of the users in the list (Katz, fig. 21, shared workspace of distributed documents).

Dalal-Katz-ON does not disclose a list of who have held their respective IC cards over an IC card authentication section, in other words, a list of authorized users using IC cards authentication.

However, Kisliakov discloses using an IC card to store session and user identification information (see, e.g., [0227]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal-Katz-ON and Kisliakov in order to store ID information in a smart card therefore provide ease of ID information storage and retrieval with increased security protection (Kisliakov, [0002]).

44. Claims 30 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal-Katz-ON, in view of Onoe et al. (US 5,951,642, hereafter Onoe)

45. For claim 30, Dalal-Katz-ON does not explicitly the shared workspace server assigns priority to project directories based on information indicating which project directories were used in the past, and the teleconference system changes a combination of color, size, shape and position based on the priority.

However, Onoe discloses a method/system for ranking top-down information based on access frequencies and time (fig. 12, ranking based on access frequencies and time).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal-Katz-ON and Onoe in order to sort in positions different project directories taught by Katz according to previous user access history in order to retrieve information that is most likely to be accessed next by the users automatically.

46. Claim 43 is rejected for the same rationale as in claim 30.

Conclusion

47. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

48. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HH

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452